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THE SOCIALIST & LABOR STAR

ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY

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W. H. THOMPSON Editor



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Law and Order

We have been given an object lesson in just what is meant by "Law and Order."

It seems that the powers that be despaired of our ever learning just what the phrase "Law and Order," really means, by simply hearing it oft repeated by the coal operators' newspapers, so they treated us to a dose of the concoction, even forcing it upon us by the right of might.

The first intimation that any "law and order" was abroad in Huntington was discovered in the wee sma' hours of Friday morning, May 9, when the homes of those citizens who have been actively engaged in the production of this paper were surrounded by officers and the sleeping occupants awakened and dragged off to jail. With these desperate criminals safely incarcerated "Law and Order" had a clear field and it immediately went into action.

First it visited the plant of The Socialist Printing Company, located at the corner of Seventh avenue and Twentieth street, gained admittance by crawling through the transom over the front door and the second example of "Law and Order" in its perfection was shown. The plant containing about \$4000.00 worth of material and machinery usual to the printing business was almost entirely wrecked. The company's business papers, correspondence, contracts, files, copy, books, etc., were spirited away and have not as yet returned.

"Law and Order" then proceeded to Editor W. H. Thompson's residence at 1950 Ninth avenue, forced its way into the house, searched it thoroughly and accumulated another assortment of private papers, correspondence, etc.

"Law and Order" deeming that it had sufficiently demonstrated its methods to the benighted citizens of this city, departed with its captives for the Capitol City, its natural lair, where it deposited its victims in the filthy Kanawha County jail. The aforesaid victims had ample opportunity during the following 14 days to ponder on the ways and appreciate fully the beautifulness of this great, new invention—"Law and Order."

After two weeks' meditation on the part of the captives, it was decided, by those ministers of the new species, that in all probability they had become ardent proselytes of the strange, weird faith, so they were turned out of the Workers' Palace in the city where the new cult holds forth, and allowed to begin the pilgrimage back to their homes.

A large and efficient company was engaged in staging the first appearance of "Law and Order," in this city. It was headed by two valiant local soldiers, Major Tom Davis and Lieut. Templeton, who in addition to their activities in spreading the propaganda of the new cult also labor diligently at drawing pay from the local municipal government. These two leaders, evidently wishing to give their fellow-townsmen and neighbors the best demonstration possible, far exceeded their authority and instructions, it was alleged by General Elliott who seems to be high priest of the new doctrine, in launching the new movement in these waters.

It was a rather expensive experience to those recipients of the degree work—costing them something over \$2000.00 in property and business destroyed, and two weeks of their lives.

However, the honor conferred by making them the sacrificial offering will no doubt in some measure atone for the pecuniary losses.

A COWARDLY ATTACK

After a year's silent waiting for an opportunity of cowardly revenge upon The Star and its editor, the Herald-Dispatch welcomed the destruction

of our plant and the incarceration of our staff as the long sought for opening, and evidently believing that we would never recover from the dastardly blow, struck in the dark, it proceeded to puke out its long confined rage in two columns of rotten lies, under the head of "confiscation."

Among the mass of misstatements under this head we find the following libelous declaration, aimed not only at the Star and its editor but at the 3,500 union men of the city:

"The utterances of the paper did not comport with the views of the RESPECTABLE PART OF THE CITIZENSHIP of Huntington. While it was called in part 'The Labor Star,' its rabid utterances and its position as an abettor of murder, arson and defiance of the law did not meet with the approval of the laboring men of the city. * * * On the contrary they were the first to condemn it, even as they have been the first to approve of the steps that have been taken for its suppression."

While the Herald-Dispatch was circulating this libel the Huntington Trades and Labor Assembly, composed of delegates from each of the 30 affiliated local unions, was holding a special meeting to protest against the illegal seizure of their official organ. In addition to the strongly worded protest sent the state authorities at Charleston, a committee of three, was sent at the expense of the Assembly, to the national capitol at Washington to demand from the highest authority in the land that which it had been impossible to secure in their own state—justice and respect for their rights and property. Largely as a result of this action by the Workers Organization of this city, those persons connected with the Star and who had been deported to a distant jail, were released, and promises of complete restitution of confiscated property were made.

As to the vicious libels so industriously circulated by the mental prostitutes, moral perverts and physical cowards who are responsible for their appearance in the editorial columns of the Herald-Dispatch, they shall be answered for in a legal and lawful manner when once again civil law is established in West Virginia.

AN EXPLANATION.

Only those of our readers who have seen a printing establishment immediately after it had been struck by a cyclone can comprehend the difficulties we have encountered in getting out this, the first issue of The Star since our plant was wrecked by the militia during the night of May 8. We have been compelled to set up and print small sections of the paper at a time, then distribute the meagre supply of type remaining after the wreck, and set up and print other sections. This issue has been in process of construction for two weeks, which explains some of the paradoxical statements it contains. For instance on page 3 will be found an article dealing with the strike of the Bakery Workers Union. Since this was printed the difficulties between the Bakers and their employers have been amicably adjusted, as is related in the article on the first page. Various other similar cases may be discovered, and we offer as an excuse therefor the difficulties as stated above.

TIN HORN COMIC OPERA

The merry gentleman from McDowell county West Virginia is manipulating things in a manner that would furnish plots galore for many an up-to-date comic opera. With a flourish of bayonets and a gallant charge of valiant swashbuckling yellow boys, the Labor Argus was put to rout. A few days of peaceful exploitation and coupon clipping is enjoyed. Then Caramba! the miners are seen sitting in the quiet of the evening enjoying their pipes with the Labor Star across the knees of every subscriber of the Labor Argus. Again is there marching and counter-marching. A call for volunteers is issued. White to the lips but resolute, Major Tom Davis, Lieut. Rappitoe, Lieut. Templeton, step forth prepared for the midnight raid on what—the enemies camp? No—a printing plant and a sleeping boy! Here is fitting work for the army of the little mountain state. Raids perpetrated at midnight in the name of Holy Law and Order make a citizen smile—or curse. But the work is done and the Labor Star is temporarily unhorsed. Again does the dividing up go peacefully on. But, Heli ablaze! the guffaws up the creeks can be heard clear to the Capitol. Almost every miner in West Virginia is grinning and reading the Appeal to Reason. Now, Major Tom, here is a man's job. Go and suppress the Appeal. But we'll promise you one thing, when you go after those Kansas farmers, who happen to be real free-men, if they are not mountaineers, it will be different work than chasing an egg throwing thug up a back alley with him exploding blank cartridges in your face.

THE JAPANESE WAR SCARE.

We sometimes wonder what powerful interests have stirred this Japanese mess to the heat it has attained. We do not have ten thousand in America. Do we, who are so boastful of the glories of competition, fear this little band of Japs? Some interest more powerful than the small farming element affected in California is fomenting this strife.

The tide of unrest in America is daily growing more menacing. The demands of the working class for better conditions, less hours, more education are insistent and haughty. Our land, or the capitalist's land rather, presents a spectacle of nation-wide industrial strife between employer and employee. To divert the attention of the workers from their misery and endure them to go murdering Japs for patriotic reasons (?) is not beyond the American buccaners of finance.

When we force all jingo editors, capitalists and preachers to bear the brunt of every battle, then there will be no wars.

GOVERNOR HATFIELD.

Mr. Hatfield, salaried servant of the people of West Virginia, has seen fit to order military confiscation of two Socialist newspapers that had the effrontery to disagree with him in regard to the merits and demerits of the controversy on Paint and Cabin Creeks. In a manner unparalleled in American annals he has ridden roughshod over blood-bought priceless liberties of the American people.

Mr. Hatfield, you are dealing with American citizens not Russian serfs and the man doesn't live who can tell us what to think and what to say. The settlement you proposed in the coal strike did not suit Comrade Thompson, and he, thinking he was in a land where free expression and discussion is a cardinal principle, spoke up like a man and said so.

For this you send armed midnight marauders and destroyed our private property. And then you call us anarchists! Your order the home of a lone woman ransacked without a warrant, and then you tell us we must obey the law!

You confine American citizens in foul jails indefinitely, without a hearing, and then you tell us we must obey the law.

This strange interpretation of law jars harshly on American ears.

If the Socialist and Labor Star libels anyone we should be punished. If the Labor Star has broken any law of the land we should be taken into court, have a jury determine the extent of the wrong and mete out judgment. But we want to know the name of the American who would say that we should be accused and condemned by the judgement of one man.

The working class pay the salary of every public official in West Virginia and if any one of them merits our displeasure we will criticise him, be he Governor or dog-catcher.

A Peeved Schoolboy.

Somebody on the illustrious editorial staff of the local Herald-Dispatch is peeved. Senator Kern, who looks like a real man to us, has had the courage to say openly what every honest man knows in his heart, and that is, that the Socialists are in the vanguard of every fight for liberty and right. The editorial strumpet on the Herald-Dispatch is immediately kicked onto the job of defending his masters. And such a defense! Under the caption of "Democracy and Socialism" this fetch and carry reveals to what extent a person can prostitute his soul.

This mess of coarse, cowardly, lying invective will sicken any intelligent man or woman, and as for the opinion of fools we care nothing.

Gillespie Tells His Experiences As Prisoner of War

On Friday morning May 9th at 1:15 a. m., the writer with four other Stockholders of the Socialist Printing Company, were arrested at the command of Henry D. Hatfield, Governor of West Virginia, and taken to the Cabell County jail. On Saturday morning the Sheriff was ordered to turn over his five prisoners to the military officers. We were taken to Charleston and placed in a filthy jail. The warrant called for our confinement in Cabell county jail.

After reaching Charleston, one of the men arrested was taken to the office of Adj. General Elliott where he was questioned about the paper printed in Huntington known as the Socialist & Labor Star. This man informed Mr. Elliott of the affairs of the company and the paper printed at their plant. On Saturday night about 8 o'clock two others were called and taken before Gen. Elliott who said in part, that the Governor was called out of town but he had had a short talk with him that day in regard to these two men. He began by saying that the Governor, in looking for causes that resulted in the industrial war in the various counties in the state, had his attention called to the Labor Argus and the Socialist and Labor Star, in conjunction with certain labor agitators and socialist, because their speeches and writings had so inflamed the miners that they armed themselves with high power guns, and caused war, and that when the militia went to the trouble zone there were more guns in a small district than were in the whole state militia. He said that the Governor has power to arrest and imprison all persons who aid, abet, or assist in any way this alleged lawlessness, and as you men are technically responsible for the printed matter in the Labor Star you are guilty because you are officers and stockholders in the paper.

He stated that mine guards have been disarmed and either arrested or driven out of the district; that not only miners but guards and operators have been arrested for violation of law. When ask why all prisoners were not tried by civil court with due process of law in West Virginia now, he said that you could not get any one to serve warrants or try to exercise their duty as civil officers, for it was as much as his life was worth to go in this district.

He said to Mr. Sturin that it was a pity that men of such intelligence as he would employ such men as Thompson to run a paper. "I am a student of human nature," he said, "and I believe that Boswell, Brown, Merrick and Thompson have diseased brains, and are dangerous to the public. Such should be watched, and the governor will hold them until such time as the trouble in the strike zone is settled. The state according to the militia has evidence enough to send them to the penitentiary." Asked: why not try them by jury? He became angry. He was told that that is what we demanded, a trial by jury for all prisoners. He told us about some of the things he advocated that did not

please the governor, such as treating both sides of the conflict alike; that the mine guard system was a menace to peace; that men armed with authority based on force became vicious and brutal, and would do many things that they otherwise would not do, and it must not be continued. Also that there was two sides to this trouble. The operators had machine guns mounted on the hills and they with their hired guards were just as much to blame for the war in Paint and Cabin Creek as the miners who had to protect themselves. He told of some of the places where these miners lived and said they were so bad that if the company did not fix them fit

for habitation he, Elliott, would burn them down.

He told us that he received several telegrams from Huntington from prominent men stating what kind of men we were and because of these telegrams he would allow us to go back to our families. (We wish to say here that we heartily appreciate this action on the part of our friends.)

At this juncture we discussed the protest meeting held at Huntington, which was about the only subject that we said anything at all telling how the meeting was disturbed and nearly broken up. He said Major Davis had phoned him about the trouble there and that he, Davis, had tried to capture the disturbers. Then I told him that we only wanted our constitutional right and that I held to that subject in my speech.

He said we could publish our paper if there was not anything personal or libelous in it. With this he bade us good night.

G. W. GILLESPIE.

The Star and The Labor Argus both One Year for \$1.50.

All Men Are Created Equal.

We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain INALIENABLE RIGHTS; that among these are LIFE, LIBERTY, and the PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS; that, TO SECURE these RIGHTS, GOVERNMENTS ARE INSTITUTED among men, DERIVING their JUST POWERS FROM THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED; that, WHEN ANY FORM OF GOVERNMENT BECOMES DESTRUCTIVE OF THESE ENDS, IT IS THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO ALTER OR ABOLISH IT, and TO INSTITUTE A NEW GOVERNMENT, LAYING ITS FOUNDATION ON SUCH PRINCIPLES, AND ORGANIZING ITS POWERS IN SUCH FORM, AS TO THEM SHALL SEEM MOST LIKELY TO EFFECT THEIR SAFETY AND HAPPINESS.—From the Declaration of Independence.

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